

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/001930-2022>

Contract

Design, manufacture, delivery and commission of HVDC equipment for IFA - Sellindge

National Grid Interconnectors Limited

F06: Contract award notice – utilities

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-001930

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-030e23

Published 21 January 2022, 6:35pm

Section I: Contracting entity

I.1) Name and addresses

National Grid Interconnectors Limited

1-3 Strand

London

WC2N5EH

Contact

James Cooper

Email

James.Cooper1@nationalgrid.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.nationalgrid.com

I.6) Main activity

Electricity

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Design, manufacture, delivery and commission of HVDC equipment for IFA - Sellindge

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 31121110 - Power converters

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.1.4) Short description

Design, manufacture, delivery and commission of HVDC equipment for IFA - Sellindge.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Design, manufacture, delivery and commission of HVDC equipment for IFA - Sellindge.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

In September 2021, a fire broke out at Sellindge, the UK converter station of the IFA1 interconnector. Due to the damage to assets onsite the IFA capacity was reduced to zero (from 2000MW).

In late October 2021 bipole two was returned to service, restoring the site to half capacity (1000MW). Due to the damage sustained on bipole one, an asset replacement or repair exercise was required to be undertaken in order to recover the second 1000MW of IFA capacity.

Multiple options were explored to return full capacity of the interconnector, including refurbishment of the damaged equipment. Independent HVDC experts were engaged to support an assessment of the feasibility of integrating third party (non-OEM) assets with the original OEM system and to review the technical challenges associated with interfacing replacement equipment with the current control system, not damaged in the fire, which is in use on both the UK and French side of the interconnector.

The independent assessment confirmed it was not technically possible to integrate third party (non-OEM) assets to the existing control system. Replacement of the control system, to attempt to facilitate third party replacement assets, was estimated to be uneconomical and would also require the agreement of RTE, the joint operator of IFA, due to the additional works required in both France and the UK. Such additional work would also lead to a significant extension of the recovery programme, leading to a further extension of the unavailability of a strategically significant transmission asset.

Following the above evaluation, it was determined that competition was absent as the only viable technical solution was to replace the damaged assets on a like for like basis and therefore the decision was taken to proceed to contract with the Original Equipment Manufacturer to supply replacement assets on a sole source basis.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Design, manufacture, delivery and commission of HVDC equipment for IFA - Sellindge

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

17 December 2021

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom